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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

RYALS *et al.*

SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned

FILED: Even Date Herewith

TITLE: GENE ENCODING A PROTEIN INVOLVED IN THE SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION  
CASCADE LEADING TO SYSTEMIC ACQUIRED RESISTANCE IN PLANTS**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**BOX: PATENT APPLICATION  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

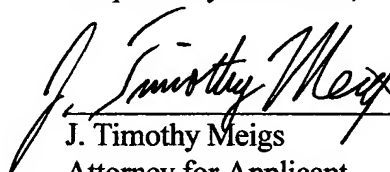
Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and commencement of substantive examination of the  
above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendment.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 19, 2002

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